

up, and raise its head as high as it could above the ground, that it might stare the further about it, just after the same manner as I have also observ'd a hunting Spider to do: and putting my finger towards them, they have at first all run towards it, till almost at it; and then they would stand round about it, at a certain distance, and smell, as it were, and consider whether they should any of them venture any further, till one more bold than the rest venturing to climb it, all the rest, if I would have suffer'd them, would have immediately followed: many such other seemingly rational actions I have observ'd in this little Vermine with much pleasure, which would be too long to be here related; those that desire more of them may satisfy their curiosity in *Ligon's History of the Barbadoes*.

Having inhar'd several of these into a small Box, I made choice of the tallest grown among them, and separating it from the rest, I gave it a Gill of Brandy, or Spirit of Wine, which after a while e'en knock'd him down dead drunk, so that he became moveless, though at first putting in he struggled for a pretty while very much, till at last, certain bubbles issuing out of its mouth, it ceased to move; this (because I had before found them quickly to recover again, if they were taken out presently) I suffered to lye above an hour in the Spirit; and after I had taken it out, and put its body and legs into a natural posture, remained moveless about an hour; but then, upon a sudden, as if it had been awaken out of a drunken sleep, it suddenly reviv'd and ran away; being caught, and serv'd as before, he for a while continued struggling and striving, till at last there issued several bubbles out of its mouth, and then, *tanquam animam expirasset*, he remained moveless for a good while; but at length again recovering, it was again redipt, and suffered to lye some hours in the Spirit; notwithstanding which, after it had layen dry some three or four hours, it again recovered life and motion: Which kind of Experiments, if prosecuted, which they highly deserve, seem to me of no inconsiderable use towards the invention of the *Latent Scheme*, (as the Noble *Verulam* calls it) or the hidden, unknown Texture of Bodies.

Of what Figure this Creature appear'd through the *Microscope*, the 32. *Scheme* (though not so carefully graven as it ought) will represent to the eye, namely, That it had a large head A A, at the upper end of which were two protuberant eyes, pearl'd like those of a Fly, but smaller B B; out of the Nose, or foremost part, issued two horns C C, of a shape sufficiently differing from those of a blew Fly, though indeed they seem to be both the same kind of Organ, and to serve for a kind of smelling; beyond these were two indented jaws D D, which he open'd side-ways, and was able to gape them asunder very wide; and the ends of them being armed with teeth, which meeting went between each other, it was able to grasp and hold a heavy body, three or four times the bulk and weight of its own body: It had only six legs, shap'd like those of a Fly, which, as I shew'd before, is an Argument that it is a winged Insect, and though I could not perceive any sign of them in the middle part of its body (which seem'd to consist of three joints or pieces

ces E F G, out of which sprung two legs, yet 'tis known that there are of them that have long wings, and fly up and down in the air.

The third and last part of its body I I I was bigger and larger than the other two, unto which it was joyn'd by a very small middle, and had a kind of loose shell, or another distinct part of its body H, which seem'd to be interpos'd, and to keep the *thorax* and belly from touching.

The whole body was cas'd over with a very strong armour, and the belly I I I was covered likewise with multitudes of small white shining bristles; the legs, horns, head, and middle parts of its body were bestuck with hairs also, but smaller and darker.

Observ. L. Of the wandering Mite.

IN *September* and *October*, 1661. I observ'd in *Oxford* several of these little pretty Creatures to wander to and fro, and often to travel over the plains of my Window. And in *September* and *October*, 1663. I observ'd likewise several of these very same Creatures traversing a window at *London*, and looking without the window upon the subjacent wall, I found whole flocks of the same kind running to and fro among the small groves and thickets of green moss, and upon the curiously spreading vegetable blew or yellow moss, which is a kind of a *Mushrome* or *Jew-ear*.

These Creatures to the naked eye seem'd to be a kind of black Mite, but much nimbler and stronger than the ordinary *Cheese-Mites*; but examining them in a *Microscope*, I found them to be a very fine crufted or shell'd Insect, much like that represented in the first Figure of the three and thirtieth *Scheme*, with a protuberant oval shell A, indented or pitted with an abundance of small pits, all covered over with little white bristles, whose points all directed backwards.

It had eight legs, each of them provided with a very sharp talon, or claw at the end, which this little Animal, in its going, fastned into the pores of the body over which it went. Each of these legs were bestuck in every joyn't of them with multitudes of small hairs, or (if we respect the proportion they bore to the bigness of the leg) turnpikes, all pointing towards the claws.

The *Thorax*, or middle parts of the body of this Creature, was exceeding small, in respect both of the head and belly, it being nothing but that part which was covered by the two shells B B, though it seem'd to grow thicker underneath: And indeed, if we consider the great variety Nature uses in proportioning the three parts of the body, the *Head*, *Thorax*, and *Belly* we shall not wonder at the small proportion of this *Thorax*, nor at the vaster bulk of the belly, for could we exactly anatomise this little Creature, and observe the particular designs of each part, we should doubtless, as we do in all her more manageable